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A
L E T T E R
T O
Sir JOHN PHILLIPS, Bart.

OCCASION'D

By a BILL brought into Parliament to
Naturalize Foreign PROTESTANTS.



L O N D O N :

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A

LETTER

TO

Sir JOHN PHILLIPS, Bart. &c.

SIR,



S you have a Bill now depending in your House for *naturalizing Foreign Protestants*, and the Subject thereof being become the Topic of Conversation, I flatter my self that you won't think this Address impertinent; and as our present Circumstances are not greatly different

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from

from what they were some Years since ; to see this Measure in the Light it was *then* seen by our Ancestors, may be of some Use for the forming of your Opinion on the present Occasion.

The Subject has several times undergone the Consideration of Parliament, into which it was always introduced upon the Maxim, *that the Increase of People is the advancing the Wealth and Strength of a Nation* : However uncontrovertible this Maxim may be in regard to *Natives* ; I am sure it will never meet with an universal Consent in regard to *Foreigners*.

It has been an Observation in almost all Countries, that a peculiar Affection appears in most Men for the Place of their Nativity ; Mankind with their first Breath are naturalized to the Soil, and so great an Effect is fixed upon the Constitution, that it becomes the Element that they best thrive in, and in return the Interest and Welfare of that Place, or that Country are always predominant, altho' their After-Situation of Life should be at ever so great a Distance.

I have said, this happens in *almost* all Countries; I am sorry *that* wherein we live should be an Exception to this general Rule; but it's too apparent, that in these our *modern* Days we see a Set of Men of Taste (as they are pleased to call themselves) who despise *Englishmen*, *English Food*, and *English Liberty*, for no other Reason, than that they are the Product of the Places of their Nativity; whilst they furnish themselves from a foreign Climate with every Vice, and every Species of Luxury, that can render 'em ridiculous in the Eyes of those Foreigners, who are so fond of becoming Denizens of this *Kingdom*.

I am sorry that every Day's Experience verifies this Assertion; and to this, I fear, is owing this Attempt to Naturalize Foreigners, in order to corrupt and impoverish the *few*, that remain untainted by *French Ragoûts* and *Italian Effeminacy*.

This Bill was first attempted in the Year 1694, but there was then such an *English* Spirit appeared, that it was rejected with Disdain. The Speech made
by

by Sir *John Knight*, Representative for *Bristol*, on that Occasion, is so memorable, that I can't help transcribing it entire.



MR. SPEAKER,

‘ I Have heard of a Ship in a violent
 ‘ Storm, in Danger of perishing every
 ‘ Moment; [it was not such a sham Storm
 ‘ as we were lately entertain’d with in the
 ‘ *Gazette*, which deceives the People,
 ‘ that many Ships going for *France*, la-
 ‘ den with Corn, were cast away, tho’
 ‘ those Ships and many more are since
 ‘ safely arriv’d in *France*; but it was such
 ‘ a real Storm, as on the 7th of the last
 ‘ Month destroy’d, on the Coast of *Corn-*
 ‘ *wall*, upwards of 70 Sail of our *Eng-*
 ‘ *lish* Ships, most of which were laden
 ‘ with Corn, and several Sorts of Provi-
 ‘ sions, for the Use of our *D—* Allies,
 ‘ to enable them to live cheap, by mak-
 ‘ ing the same dear at Home; perhaps,
 ‘ some

‘ some were for the Support of our half-
 ‘ starv’d, and unpaid *English* Soldiers now
 ‘ in *Flanders*; when perish’d likewise
 ‘ more than 700 Sailors, who have left a
 ‘ great many Widows, Children, and
 ‘ poor Relations, to curse our Conduct at
 ‘ Sea, the Cause of this Calamity: In
 ‘ such a dreadful Storm it was that the
 ‘ aforesaid Ship was in] when the good
 ‘ Commander seeing the Danger, and ap-
 ‘ prehending Death, desir’d his Crew to
 ‘ assist with Resolution, and preserve
 ‘ themselves and the Ship; which the Sai-
 ‘ lors refusing to do, he retir’d to his Cab-
 ‘ bin, humbled himself in Prayer, and
 ‘ implor’d the Powers that alone can save
 ‘ in Time of Need, that tho’ the Ship
 ‘ and the Company might be justly swal-
 ‘ low’d up, for the Disobedience of the
 ‘ Sailors, yet that he and his Cabbin might
 ‘ suffer no Damage.

‘ Sir, I cannot, as that good Comman-
 ‘ der did, be so vain as to hope, that ei-
 ‘ ther my self, or the Place for which I
 ‘ serve, can be preserv’d from the general
 ‘ Inundation, which this Bill, we are now
 ‘ debating, lets in on the Liberties of my
 ‘ Native Country and Countrymen; and
 ‘ therefore be unconcern’d for the Good

‘ of *England*, provided *Bristol* were safe.
 ‘ To hope for, and expect Happiness in
 ‘ Life, when all Mankind but my self
 ‘ are dead, would not be more deceiving,
 ‘ than to propose Comfort and Security to
 ‘ my self and Corporation, when Stran-
 ‘ gers are admitted to possess and enjoy,
 ‘ by a Law, all that’s valuable in this
 ‘ Kingdom; for this Bill doth enfranchise
 ‘ all Strangers, that will swear and protest
 ‘ against Popery, with the Liberties of
 ‘ every *Englishman*, after the vast Expence
 ‘ of Treasure and *English* Blood, it hath
 ‘ cost this Kingdom in all Times and
 ‘ Ages of our Fore-fathers, to secure
 ‘ them to themselves and their Poste-
 ‘ rity.

‘ Wherefore, Mr. *Speaker*, I must beg
 ‘ Pardon, if at this Time I cannot sit
 ‘ silent, but express a zealous Concern,
 ‘ as well for the Kingdom in general, as
 ‘ for the Place I represent in particular;
 ‘ and I am more mov’d thereunto, whilst
 ‘ I see so many Members sent here by
 ‘ their Country, for the Conservation of
 ‘ the *Englishmens* Liberties, so warm as
 ‘ to part with all to Strangers with one
 ‘ Vote.

The

' The Argument of the honourable
 ' Person near me, to render all the Care
 ' of our Fore-fathers of no Esteem a-
 ' mongst us, who are, or ought to be the
 ' Representatives of the Kingdom, was
 ' to prove that this Age and Generation
 ' are wiser (he did not say honefter) than
 ' the former.

' I remember a West-Countryman,
 ' many Years past, undertook to prove the
 ' same to me and my Company beyond
 ' Sea, by declaring his Father was a Fool
 ' to him : I yielded him that Point, by
 ' concluding both to be such ; and yet our
 ' Fore-fathers might be wise Men. I shall
 ' not at this Time question the Wisdom
 ' of those who promote the Bill, or their
 ' Fathers. For my self, I declare in be-
 ' half of the Wisdom and Honesty of our
 ' Predecessors ; nor can I assent to the
 ' yielding up of the Liberties and Laws
 ' they derived unto us, only because some
 ' Gentlemen think better of themselves
 ' (and perhaps mistakenly) than of their
 ' Parents.

' Sir, I was early instructed in a Princi-
 ' ple of Deference to the Wisdom of our
 ' Ancestors ; and at this Time I tremble,
 ' when I reflect on the Correction given

‘ me by my Master, that I might not for-
 ‘ get, but imitate and defend in all Times
 ‘ this Rule ; *Let them only be accounted*
 ‘ *good, just, and wise Men, who regard*
 ‘ *and defend the Statutes, Laws, Ordi-*
 ‘ *nances, and Liberties, which their Fore-*
 ‘ *fathers Wisdom and Experience obtain’d*
 ‘ *for themselves and Posterity.*

‘ Now, it is my Opinion, Mr. *Speaker*,
 ‘ that if those Gentlemen who approve
 ‘ of this Bill, had not only been taught
 ‘ that Rule, but as well corrected as my-
 ‘ self, they would be of my Judgment ;
 ‘ and I wish that they who depart from
 ‘ that Rule, and sacrifice our *English* Li-
 ‘ berties to a Number of mercenary Fo-
 ‘ reigners, may not meet with a much
 ‘ more rigorous and exemplary Chastise-
 ‘ ment from their enrag’d and ruined
 ‘ Countrymen.

‘ The Arguments us’d for the Bill, are
 ‘ in Substance these : First, a Want of
 ‘ Purchasers for our Lands. Second, Of
 ‘ Merchants. Third, Manufacturers, who
 ‘ can work cheaper than the *English*.
 ‘ Fourth, Husbandmen to till the Ground.

‘ To all these I shall return short An-
 ‘ swers ; but if I debate not on them with
 ‘ that Advantage and Reason as our *Land-*
 ‘ *Admi-*

‘ *Admirals* can (no doubt) with great In-
 ‘ genuity on Sea-Politicks, I hope the
 ‘ House will pardon me ; for my Obser-
 ‘ vations never cost the Kingdom such
 ‘ Expence of Money at Home, and Losses
 ‘ at Sea, *as hath the Experience of those*
 ‘ *honourable Persons in Sea Affairs.*

‘ 1st, It is argued by some, that we want
 ‘ Purchasers for the Lands : This is a me-
 ‘ lancholy Consideration ; I therefore de-
 ‘ sire those Gentlemen who approve of this
 ‘ Bill, to tell me *what it is* hath brought
 ‘ us to this Condition, that the landed
 ‘ Men of *England* are reduced to so low
 ‘ an Ebb, that they must sell, and none
 ‘ left able to buy, unless Foreigners are
 ‘ naturalized : Doth this prove our Fore-
 ‘ fathers wanted Understanding ? Or, doth
 ‘ it not rather conclude it’s occasion’d by
 ‘ our Want of theirs, and not following
 ‘ their Examples ? Who never tax’d their
 ‘ Country to the Ruin both of themselves
 ‘ and their Posterity ; nor did they expend
 ‘ the Money of the Kingdom on such Al-
 ‘ lies as ours ; who, as we have been in-
 ‘ form’d by some of the Privy-Council,
 ‘ are not in our Interest, and will spare us
 ‘ none of their Men for our Pay, without
 ‘ great Pensions likewise for themselves.

‘ Can any Man hope to persuade me, that
 ‘ our Forefathers would have brought
 ‘ foreign Soldiers into *England*, and pay
 ‘ them, and naturalize them likewise, and
 ‘ at the same time send the *English* Sol-
 ‘ diers abroad to fight in a strange Land
 ‘ without their Pay ?

‘ Let us abate our Taxes, and after the
 ‘ wise Precedent of our Fathers, pay our
 ‘ own Seamen and Soldiers at Home, and
 ‘ send the Foreigners back ; then the Mo-
 ‘ ney will be found circulating at Home in
 ‘ such *Englishmen’s* Hands, who may buy
 ‘ the Lands that are to be sold, without
 ‘ naturalizing Strangers.

‘ Secondly, It’s said, we want more
 ‘ Merchants : Who may we thank for
 ‘ bringing so many to Poverty ? But
 ‘ I shall forbear grating, and desire
 ‘ the Liberty to consider in short, how
 ‘ the Trade of *England* hath hitherto
 ‘ been carry’d on. Gentlemen have plac’d
 ‘ their younger Children to Merchants ;
 ‘ their Masters observing their Honesty
 ‘ and Diligence, when they have gained
 ‘ some Experience in the necessary Parts
 ‘ of Trade, generally send them abroad to
 ‘ *Turkey*, all Parts of the *Levant*, to
 ‘ *Spain*, *Portugal*, the *East* and *West-In-*
 ‘ *dies*, and to all Parts where *England* holds
 ‘ any

any considerable Commerce ; there the
 young Men are employ'd by, and en-
 trusted with the Stocks and Estates of
 their Masters and Friends, whereby all
 Parties, both the Principals at Home,
 and the Factors Abroad, are advantag'd,
 and *England* enrich'd, (for there in the
 End all centers ;) and at last, when they
 are satiated with Gain, they return to
 their native Soil, their Friends and Re-
 lations for Ease and Enjoyment, making
 Room for a younger Generation to suc-
 ceed in their profitable Employments.
 Thus hitherto this Kingdom hath ad-
 vanc'd in Riches, whilst Foreigners
 could not with Success plant their Fac-
 tories on us, thro' the Advantage we had
 by our Laws. Let us but turn the Tables,
 and consider the Consequence : Suppose
 we pass this Bill, and Foreigners (who,
 no Doubt, will take the Oaths as this
 Bill directs, and protest against *Popery*
 and *Paganism*, and on occasion Christi-
 anity too, as at *Japan*) send their Ser-
 vants and Factors hither, and we natu-
 ralize them ; and let the Capital Stock,
 which gets an Employ to these new-
 made *Englishmen*, belong to their Mas-
 ters and Friends, who never did, or ever
 will live amongst us ; will it not then
 follow,

‘ follow, that the Profit will be theirs,
 ‘ and not *England's*? and will not the
 ‘ new-made *English*, (yet Foreigners still)
 ‘ return to their Country and Friends with
 ‘ their Gain, as our People hitherto have
 ‘ done? We may observe, by our inland
 ‘ Trade, that it's seldom they who make
 ‘ the Manufactures gain Estates, but those
 ‘ who employ their Stocks in buying and
 ‘ selling what others make; and it is the
 ‘ same with the Merchants, those that
 ‘ export and import, are the Gainers; the
 ‘ first Maker very seldom, the Consump-
 ‘ tioner never.

‘ The Conclusion then of this Experi-
 ‘ ment must be this, That what hath hi-
 ‘ therto been Gain to *England* by *English*
 ‘ Merchants and Factors, will be turned
 ‘ to a foreign Land, by the foreign Mer-
 ‘ chants naturalized, for their own Good,
 ‘ not *England's*.

‘ But this is not all, for at once the
 ‘ Art of Navigation will be render'd use-
 ‘ less. Whence then will be a Nursery
 ‘ for Seamen? For foreign Merchants will
 ‘ naturalize foreign Seamen; and when
 ‘ the Press-masters find them, they will
 ‘ *Dutchen spraken, ya min heer*, and a-
 ‘ void the Service; but at the *Custom-*
 ‘ *house*,

' *house, Exchange, and in all Corpora-*
 ' *tions, they will be found as good Eng-*
 ' *lishmen as any be of this House. From*
 ' *whence it followeth, that Trade will be*
 ' *only carry'd on by foreign Merchants*
 ' *and Seamen, and the English Seamen*
 ' *condemned to our Men of War, and*
 ' *perhaps live there, as hitherto, without*
 ' *their Pay, till another Million be ow-*
 ' *ing them for Wages, and in the Inte-*
 ' *rim have this only Consolation and Re-*
 ' *ward for Service done, and to be done,*
 ' *that their Wives and Children may be*
 ' *subsisted with the Alms of the Parish,*
 ' *whilst foreign Soldiers are maintain-*
 ' *ed at Home and Abroad, with their*
 ' *Pay.*

' A third Argument for admitting *For-*
 ' *reigners, is, upon a supposed Want*
 ' *we have of Manufacturers, especially*
 ' *such as will work cheaper than the Eng-*
 ' *lish. In my Opinion this Reasoning is*
 ' *extraordinary, and ought not to take*
 ' *Air out of the House, lest the old*
 ' *English Spirit should exert itself in De-*
 ' *fence of its Liberties : For at this Time,*
 ' *when all Provisions are become excessive*
 ' *dear by the great Quantities exported*
 ' *beyond Sea, which puts the poor Eng-*
 ' *lish*

‘ *lish* Manufacturers on starving in most
 ‘ Parts of *England*, for Want of a full
 ‘ Employ to enable them to support their
 ‘ Families by their honest and painful
 ‘ Labour and Industry ; shall an *English*
 ‘ Parliament let in Strangers to undersell
 ‘ our Country? which they may easily
 ‘ do, whilst they live in *Garrets*, pay no
 ‘ Taxes, and are bound to no Duty. How
 ‘ shall we answer this to our Country,
 ‘ who sent us here? When by so doing,
 ‘ instead of making the Kingdom more
 ‘ populous, we provide only for the Sub-
 ‘ sistance of Foreigners, and put our
 ‘ Countrymen to the choice of starving
 ‘ at Home, or to turn Soldiers, and be
 ‘ sent Abroad, and to starve there for
 ‘ want of their Pay ; for it is well known
 ‘ that at this Time, more Commodities
 ‘ are made in *England*, than can be con-
 ‘ sumed Abroad or at Home, which
 ‘ makes the poor Manufacturers so mi-
 ‘ serable. All Country Gentlemen with-
 ‘ in this House, have for several Sessions
 ‘ laboured what they could to raise the
 ‘ Price of the Provisions which their
 ‘ Lands produce, and some think it not
 ‘ great enough yet ; and they would de-
 ‘ spise that Man, who should endeavour
 ‘ to

' to lower the Rates, by proposing a free
 ' Importation of *Irish* Cattle and Corn,
 ' tho' he had no other Design, than that
 ' charitable and necessary one of reliev-
 ' ing the Poor : And yet these very Gen-
 ' tlemen are for this Bill, because they
 ' would have the Labour of the Poor
 ' brought to a lower Advantage. In
 ' my Opinion, this is a very un-
 ' equal Way of Reasoning, that whilst
 ' we raise the Price of the Product of
 ' the Land, for the Gentlemen to live
 ' in greater State, at the same time our
 ' Consults are how to make the half-
 ' starv'd Manufacturers, that live by their
 ' daily Labour, more and more miserable.
 ' What Opinion will the common People
 ' of *England* have of this House, and
 ' the Gentlemen of the Kingdom, whom
 ' nothing can please, but what is made
 ' by Foreigners, or comes from Abroad ?

' Our Palates for a long Time have
 ' been so nice, that nothing but a *French*
 ' Cook could please ; nor could we per-
 ' swade ourselves that our Cloathing was
 ' good, unless from Head to Foot we
 ' were *Alamode de France*. The Gen-
 ' tleman was not well serv'd, without a
 ' *Frenchman* ; and the Lady's Commode
 ' could not sit right, if her fine *French-*

‘ woman did not put it on. Now on a
 ‘ sudden, the Change is as violent in Fa-
 ‘ vour of the Foreigners, who are great
 ‘ Courtiers, and the only taking People;
 ‘ and our *English* are a sort of clumsy-
 ‘ fisted People, if compared with the mo-
 ‘ dish *D— Hans* and *Fro* ; and in short,
 ‘ the *Englishmen* are fit for nothing, but
 ‘ to be sent beyond Sea, and there either
 ‘ to fight, steal, or starve for want of Pay.
 ‘ There is one Thing, Mr. *Speaker*, which
 ‘ comes into my Mind, with which I
 ‘ shall close this Consideration. What
 ‘ Reason was there for blaming the May-
 ‘ ors, Aldermen, Common-councils, and
 ‘ other Governors of Corporations, for
 ‘ surrendring the Charters, though they
 ‘ still retained the Rights for *Englisch-*
 ‘ *men only* to come into new Charters, and
 ‘ at the same hope Time to justify our
 ‘ Proceedings, though we throw up the
 ‘ great Charter of our *English* Liberties,
 ‘ to admit Strangers?

‘ A fourth Pretence for this Bill, is,
 ‘ a Want of Husbandmen to till the
 ‘ Ground. I shall say little on this Head,
 ‘ but request the honourable Person be-
 ‘ low me, to tell me of the *forty thou-*
 ‘ *sand French*, which he confesseth are
 ‘ come into *England*, how many does he
 ‘ know

‘ know, that at this Time follow the
 ‘ Plow-tail ? For it’s my firm Opinion,
 ‘ that not only the *French*, but any other
 ‘ Nation this Bill shall let in upon us,
 ‘ will never transplant themselves for the
 ‘ Benefit of going to Plough ; they will
 ‘ contentedly leave the *English* the sole
 ‘ Monopoly of that Slavery.

‘ Upon the whole, *Sir*, it’s my Judgment,
 ‘ that should this Bill pass, it will
 ‘ bring as great Afflictions on this Nation,
 ‘ as ever fell upon the *Ægyptians* ; and
 ‘ one of their Plagues we have at this
 ‘ Time very severe upon us ; I mean,
 ‘ that of their Land bringing forth *Frogs*
 ‘ in abundance, even in the Chambers of
 ‘ their Kings : For there is no entering the
 ‘ Courts, the Palaces of our hereditary
 ‘ Kings, for the great Noise and Croaking
 ‘ of the *Frog-Landers*.

‘ *Mr. Speaker*, this Nation is a *religious*,
 ‘ *just*, and *zealous* Nation, who, in
 ‘ some of their Fits and Zeal have not
 ‘ only quarrell’d and fought for the same,
 ‘ but have murder’d and depos’d *Kings*,
 ‘ *Nobles*, *Bishops*, and *Priests*, for the
 ‘ Sake of their Religion and Liberties,
 ‘ which they pretended to prove from the
 ‘ *Bible*. We are the *religious Representatives*
 ‘ of this *religious People* ; let us

‘ therefore learn Instruction in this Case
 ‘ before us, from that good Book ; where
 ‘ we may be inform’d, that *St. Paul*, by
 ‘ being born free of heathen *Rome*, escap’d
 ‘ a Whipping, and valued and pleaded
 ‘ that Privilege ; and the chief Captain
 ‘ of the *Romans* prides himself, that he,
 ‘ with a great Sum, had obtain’d that
 ‘ Freedom, and fear’d greatly when he
 ‘ had violated *St. Paul’s* Liberty, by bind-
 ‘ ing of him ; and shall we set at nought
 ‘ the Freedoms of the *English* Nation,
 ‘ who are a religious Christian Kingdom,
 ‘ and part with the same to Strangers, for
 ‘ nothing, unless the Undoing of our
 ‘ own Countrymen, who sent us here,
 ‘ *but not on this Errand* ? Certainly we
 ‘ should follow the Example of the *Ro-*
 ‘ *man* Captain, and fear and tremble when
 ‘ we consider the just Provocation we shall
 ‘ give to the Kingdom, who will expect
 ‘ that we preserve, and not destroy every
 ‘ *Englishman’s* Birth-right.

‘ *Sir*, we may farther learn from that
 ‘ Book, the Fate of the *Ægyptians*, who
 ‘ experimented on the Score of Charity,
 ‘ what it is a People may expect from
 ‘ admitting Strangers into their Country
 ‘ and Councils. *Joseph* was a Stranger,
 ‘ sold a Slave into *Ægypt*, yet being taken
 ‘ into

' into *Pharaoh's* Council, he, by Taxes
 ' and other fine Projects, brought the se-
 ' ven Years Plenty God had blest the *Æ-*
 ' *gyptians* with, into the Grainaries of
 ' *Pharaoh*; but when Dearth came on
 ' the Land, and the People cry'd to their
 ' King for Relief, they were sent to the
 ' Stranger *Joseph*, who getteth from
 ' them, for that which was once their
 ' own, all their Money, their Cattle, their
 ' Lands, and last of all, their Persons into
 ' Slavery; tho', at the same Time, he
 ' did far otherwise by his own Country-
 ' men, for he plac'd them in the best of
 ' the Land, the Land of *Goshen*, and
 ' nourish'd them from the King's Store.
 ' This Example should teach us to be wise
 ' in Time, seeing all this was done by the
 ' Advice of one Foreigner in the Privy
 ' Council; and what may that Country
 ' expect, where the Head, and many
 ' of the Council, are Foreigners?

' *Sir*, I perceive some Gentlemen are
 ' uneasy; perhaps I have offended them,
 ' in supposing they are religious Repre-
 ' sentatives, or concluding, that their Re-
 ' ligion is to be prov'd from the *Bible*:
 ' If that be it which displeaseth, I beg
 ' their Pardon, and promise not to offend
 ' again

‘ again on that Score ; and will conclude
 ‘ all with this Motion, That the *Serjeant*
 ‘ be commanded to open the Doors, and
 ‘ let us first kick the Bill out of the House,
 ‘ and then Foreigners out of the King-
 ‘ dom.

Thus spoke a *True British* Representative. I wish the Matter of it was not, in many Respects, too applicable to our present Circumstances.

In the 7th Year of the late *Queen Ann*, it was again brought into the House of Commons ; and, tho’ strongly opposed, passed through that and the other House, and obtained the Royal Assent. — The Reasons published against it were to the Effect following :

1. That the Conflux of Aliens, which would probably be the Effect of such a Law, might prove dangerous to our Constitution ; for these would owe Allegiance to their respective Princes, and retain a Fondness for their native Countries ; and therefore, whensoever a War should break out, might prove so many Spies and Enemies. Besides, under this Pretence, the professed Enemies of our establish’d Church
 and

and Religion, might flock over with design to effect their Overthrow.

2. That a general Naturalization might undoubtedly spread an universal Disgust and Jealousy throughout the Nation ; particularly in those Cities and Towns that are Places of Manufacture ; there having been many Complaints and Commotions in *London*, and elsewhere, on occasion of Foreigners.

3. That the Design of inviting Multitudes of Aliens to settle here, might prove in time a farther Mischief ; for they would not only be capable of voting at Elections, but also of being chosen Members of Parliament ; have Admission into Places of Trust and Authority ; which, in process of time, might endanger our ancient Polity and Government ; and by frequent Inter-marriages, go a great way to blot out and extinguish the *English* Race.

4. That, anciently, Naturalizations, by Act of Parliament, were seldom or never made but upon some special Reasons and particular Occasions. And tho' some Acts had given Encouragement to foreign Merchants

chants and Weavers to settle here, it was when our Weaving-Trade, and other Manufactures, were inconsiderable to the Advancement they had since attained. Besides, from the Settlement of the great Customs in *Edward I.*'s Time, in all Acts of Parliament since passed, Aliens had always been charged with an Increase of Customs, above Natives, and a Discrimination kept up between them, as was particularly remarked by the learned Chief Justice *Hale*, in a Tract against a general Naturalization.

5. That it was more than probable, that the greatest Number that would come over would be of poor People, which would be of fatal Consequence with respect to the many poor, industrious Families, who would be reduced to the utmost Streights hereby; it being evident, that no Hands were wanted to carry on our Manufactures, from the great Quantities that lay on hand, their Cheapness, and the Lowness of Wages now given: What then would be the Effect of such an Addition? For these Aliens would altogether settle in Places of Manufacture; there being no Instances of any of the late Refugees

fugees betaking themselves to the Spade, Plough, or Flail. Secondly, It would be a very great Charge to those Parishes wherein they would settle; there being now great Numbers of *French*, who, for want of Work, were relieved, and in great measure maintained by the Queen's Bounty, and Charity of their Churches, and other well-disposed Persons; who, when naturalized, would have Recourse to their own respective Parishes for an Allowance.

6. That general Naturalization would, in Effect, defeat the Patent of the Act of Navigation, which had always been esteemed to conduce to the Interest of the Nation, by the Encouragement and Increase of the *English* Mariners, and Advancement of Trade.

7. That hereby, in Process of Time, Aliens would be advanced in Riches, and her Majesty's Subjects impoverish'd: For those beneficial Trades of buying and selling by Commissions, Remittances, and Exchanges of Money, would, in great measure, be engrossed by Foreigners, by reason of their many Friends and Relations

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tions abroad. Besides, such Aliens generally living in Lodgings, and at little Charge, frequently escaping public Taxes and Parish Duties, would be able to underfell and undermine the native Merchants.

8. That hereby the Treasure of the Nation would be exhausted, and remitted into foreign Parts: For it might well be supposed, that those Aliens that had valuable Estates could not, or would not, transport the greatest Part thereof hither; and leaving Children and their nearest Relations behind them, they would come hither only upon a Design of getting Riches, and to return home again therewith; particularly upon a Prospect of War: An Instance of which we had in the Practice of our Merchants, who when they had got Estates abroad, constantly return home to enjoy the same.

9. That the Queen's Customs would hereby be considerably diminished: For many Statutes, which lay a greater Duty on Aliens than on Natives, would, as to this, be repeal'd.

10. That Opportunity would hereby be given to Merchants to colour the Goods and Merchandizes of other Strangers beyond Sea, their Correspondents, Friends, or Relations, either out of Friendship, or to the great Detriment of her Majesty's Customs, and Trade of the native Subjects: A Practice which was offered to be proved before their late Majesties and the Lords of the Treasury; which Reasons did influence the Judgments of our Ancestors, as appears by the Statutes of 1 H. 7. c. 11. 11 H. 7. c. 14. 22 H. 8. c. 8.

11. That the Duties of Package and Scavage of the Goods of all Merchants, as well Denizens as Aliens, were the indispensable Right and Inheritance of the Commonalty and Citizens of *London*, let to Farm by Lease (wherein are about 18 Years to come) for a Fine of 1000 *l.* and the yearly Rent of 950 *l.* and, among other things, are by Act of Parliament charged towards the raising of 1000 *l. per Annum* for ever, to the Orphans and other Creditors of the said City; which Duties would be wholly lost, to the great Preju-

dice of the said City, and would render them incapable to support the Government of the same.

12. And in the last place, That the Nation being now engaged in an expensive, though necessary War, Taxes high, Trade obstructed, great Quantities of Woolen and other Manufactures lay unfold; and, as the Effect hereof, the several Prices of making them very small; many Families destitute of Work throughout the Kingdom: What then, at such a Time as this, must be the Consequence of inviting hither, by a general Naturalization, Multitudes of poor Foreigners, who would only employ themselves in Trade and Manufactures?

The Bill having thus passed, a most extraordinary *Change* soon happened in the *Administration*, and the Publick universally shew'd a Dislike to it, by making the strongest Opposition (*at the ensuing Election of a new Parliament*) against such as promoted it. Three Years after it was repealed, as far as it related to all
such

such Foreigners as were not born of *English* Parents. And in the Preamble of the Act for that Purpose, it was declared by the whole Legislature, THAT DIVERSE MISCHIEFS AND INCONVENIENCES HAD BEEN FOUND BY EXPERIENCE TO FOLLOW FROM THIS ACT, TO THE DISCOURAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL-BORN SUBJECTS OF THIS KINGDOM, AND TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE TRADE AND WEALTH THEREOF.

After so general a Dislike of the People, and so ample a Declaration of the Legislature, I did not expect to see another Attempt of this Kind ; an Attempt, which seems calculated for no other Purpose, than to subject the People of this Kingdom to such a Foreign Yoke, as neither We nor our Posterity can bear.

Your Conduct in Parliament, Sir, has been always TRULY ENGLISH. The Temptation of a lucrative Employment could not prevail on you to forget the Trust you had undertaken for your Country. To whom, then, can I address myself ? To whom can I cry for Succour in the Day of Calamity ?

(30)

mity? To You, Sir, ever watchful, ever anxious for the Prosperity of *Britain*; and who will never mock when its Fear cometh.

I am, SIR, &c.

ANGLO-NATIVUS.



